THE CHILDS

NATURAL HISTORY

Fannie Hay

THE

CHILD'S NATURAL HISTORY.

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THE

CHILD'S NATURAL HISTORY.

IN WORDS OF FOUR LETTERS.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED

BY

A. L. BOND.

NEW YORK
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS
9 LAFAYETTE PLACE
1882

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PREFACE.

THIS little work has been written in the hope of supplying a deficiency often felt by those engaged in teaching very young children. Many excellent little books, beginning in words of four letters, change so soon to a larger number, that there are really few which a child can amuse himself by reading without help;—and few, also, from which dictation lessons can be given at an early age. Natural History is so interesting to all children, that it has been thought that a simple form of it might prove attractive, and give the desire for a farther acquaintance with the subject.

A. L. BOND.

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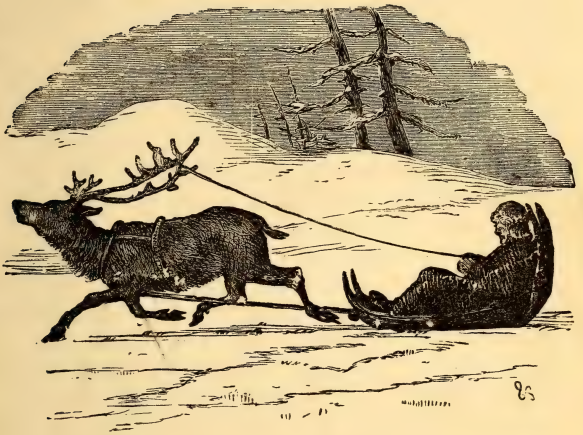


THE REIN DEER.

If you will look at the wood-cut at the top of this page, you will see what a Rein Deer is like, and what sort of a man a Lapp is. The Lapp does not live near us; his home is in a very cold land, a long way off. In that land, for one half of the year, the sun does not rise, and all that time it is dark, and very cold, with deep snow and ice. Then, when at last the sun does rise, he will not set for the rest of the year, and all that time it is day. When the dark time of the year is come, and there is no sun, if the moon is at the full, it is very nice for the Lapp to ride over the snow; for the Rein Deer will draw him so fast that no one can keep up with him, and will run on at this rate for a long time. I can not tell you all the uses the

Rein Deer are put to by the Lapp. They give milk, and they are good to eat, and they will draw a load a long way and very fast. When the Rein Deer is dead, its skin is worn by the Lapp, and it is also made into a roof for the huts, or into a tent for him to live in. It is also cut into long thin bits, and made into a kind of rope. The fat is made into oil, to burn in a lamp, or to eat, or fry fish in; and the hair is now and then made into beds; but the Lapp does not like this kind of bed so well as one made of the skin. The hoof, horn, and bone of the Rein Deer are all used, also, in many ways that I can not tell you of now.

At that time of the year when it is one long day, a kind of gad-fly, or gnat, will bite the poor Rein Deer so much, that the herd has to go up to some hill, for this fly will only live in a low land. When the dark part of the year is come, the Rein Deer find a kind of moss to eat that will grow in the snow.

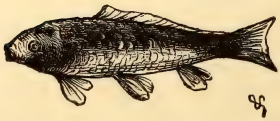
The Lapp is very fond of his Rein Deer, and, if he is rich, has more than one herd of them; he is sure to have four or five if he is ever so poor.

THE GOLD FISH.

LOOK; here is a bowl of Gold Fish in our hall. I am very glad to see them here, for I like very much to look at them as they swim up and down in the vase, or bowl. We can put them into the pond on the lawn, if we like, and, as long as it is warm, they will live in it very well; but as soon as it gets at all cold, they must be put back into the bowl, and be kept in a room with a fire in it. Do you see the fins at the side of the Fish? Each

Fish has two fins on each side; the fins help it to move, and act like the oars of a boat to push it on, for, you know, fish have no legs, and can not walk. By-and-bye, you will see that the Fish will give a flap to his fins, and this will send him a long way very fast; he may then want to turn, when he will flap the fins on one side only; he will also flap his tail, and this will help him on his way; his fins help him to rise and sink also. If you go very near, and look at the Fish, you will see a kind of hole on each side of his face; this hole we call a gill, and you will see it open and shut for the Fish to take in air.

As the Fish have been in the bowl some days, I dare say they will be glad of some food; but we must not give them much, for Fish are not wise, and will eat till they die, if they can get the food. We must get a bit of meat, not so big as a nut, and pull it to bits, and give the bits to the Fish, who will then rise up, dash at the meat, and eat it.



THE FOX.

JANE, the girl who has the care of the hens at the farm by the wood, has lost two hens and a duck the last few days. She took a boy with her, and went to see if a rat had been in the fowl pen, but they saw no sign of one. They went all over the farm yard to try and find out the fate of the poor hens; at last, in the wire that had been put up to keep the hens out of the wood, they came to a part that was all torn down, so that a gap had been made. Jane and the boy went into the wood, and when they had gone a long way, far from any path, they saw the head of the poor duck, and part of the wing of a fowl: the wing was not far from a deep dell, and in this dell a Fox had its hole, so

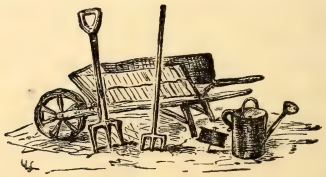
that they were at no loss to know who had been at the fowl pen. As, with us, men like to hunt the Fox, and do not wish to take it in a trap, or have it shot, Jane and the boy went back home, and set to work to mend the wire, so as to keep it out of the yard.

The Fox is of a kind of dark red hue. He has a sly face, and a pair of ears that cock up, and make him look very pert. His tail is long and full of hair, and his fur is warm and soft. His den is a hole made in some bank, or by the root of a tree; he will stay in it all day, and as soon as it is dusk, will come out to seek for prey. He will not take a lamb, but he will kill a hare, so that he does a good deal of harm; but men like so much to hunt him with a pack of dogs, that they do not mind this, but this is not kind to the poor Fox. Fox cubs are very full of fun; they will get very tame if kept in a yard, and will jump and skip, and play all day long; but if not tied up, they will make sad work with any kind of fowl that may be kept near them.

THE WORM.

I HAVE just come from the herb bed; I have been hard at work at it all the day long, and I am sure it will now be hard to find one weed in it, and it was full of them when I went to it. I dug the bed well over, and left no weed in it, and I then made it neat with my rake. When I was busy at work, I had the bad luck to cut a poor worm in two. I did not mean to do this, but I did not see the worm till I had cut it. It was a very long worm, and I cut the end of its tail off. We must take care how we dig; but you will be very glad to know that a new tail will grow on it, to make up for the one it has lost. This is very odd; for we do not get new legs nor arms if we lose our own.

The Worm does not walk; it has no legs: but it can fold up its body and let it out, and then fold it up once more, in a way that does as well for it as if it were to walk. The Worm eats tiny bits off a leaf, or bits of the soil; it is of much use in a clay soil, as it will make its hole in it, and so let out some of the wet. The mole eats the Worm, and so will more than one kind of bird. When it is dark, the Worm will come out of its hole to feed, and it will take back bits of dead leaf with it into the hole, and will bury them in the soil; and all this does the soil good. The worm has a hair or two on each side of its body, and by this hair it will hold to the soil so as to help it to move. It does not seem to have any eyes, but as it is fond of the dark, it must be able to see in some way, I feel sure.



THE JAY.

If you like to come with me, I will take you for a long walk. We will go down the lane to the end, and then turn up the hill till we get to the wood at the top. I want very much to show you a Jay, and we are sure to see one near the old farm by the wood. The Jay is a gay bird; it has a top knot or tuft on its head that has a pert look: its body is of the same kind of dark red hue that you see in a very ripe nut; and on each wing it has some gay blue bars that can be seen a long way off. When Jays fly from tree to tree you can see the bars very well.

At the time of the year when the corn is not ripe, the Jay will eat any kind of grub or slug, and then it is of use; but as soon as the peas are ripe, it will eat peas, and peas only! Five or six Jays will sit on the row of peas, and eat away at them till no more are left: they will now and then, it is true, take a bean or two, if any are near, but they do not like this as well as peas. When the peas are all gone, the Jays get to the corn, rye, and oats, and do much harm on a farm. They will rob a corn rick when it is very cold, for they stay with us all the year.

The Jays have no song, but they have a loud call or cry, and they make this cry as they fly from tree to tree. They are very bold, as well as sly, and it is not easy to take them in a net or trap.

THE ASS.

I SEE an Ass in the lane with her foal. The foal has very long legs and ears, and it has long hair all over its body: it is full of fun, and you can see it skip up and down on the turf till its legs get weak, when it will lie down to rest for a time, but I dare say it will soon jump up, as gay as ever. When its legs are able to bear it with more ease, it will trot up and down all day long, and kick and bite in mere play. The Ass does not much care what it eats, but it does not like to wet its feet, and will

not step into any kind of mud if it can help it. It can bear cold very well, but its own land is a hot one, and it will not grow so fine here.

The Wild Ass runs so fast that no one can get near it. Now and then, men go out to hunt it, but it is very rare for them to take it, and then it is in a trap: nor is it easy to tame the Wild Ass when they have got it, for it will rear, and bite, and kick any one who goes near it, so that the only use that they make of it is to eat it, and I am told it is very good for food, and like beef.

In the East the Ass is used to ride upon by rich men, but it is not kept as we keep it; it is well fed on corn, and not left to pick up any food it can get. It was much used in the Holy Land, as I am sure you must have been told.

The Ass has very sure feet, so that it is not apt to fall down, and the mule, who is a kind of Ass, will go up and down a very high path and not fall or slip: but the mule is not nice to ride upon, when the path goes by the side of a rock, for it will have its own way, and that way is to go as near as it can to the edge of the rock, so that any one on its back must feel as if he were up in the air, for he will be just over the side of the rock, and must fear a fall very much, I am sure.

THE NEWT OR EFT.

DOWN by the wood we have a pond that has duck weed all over its top. It is so far in the wood that it is very dark, and it is only now and then that a ray from the sun can find its way to it. It is a dull pond, but I am told it has a good many fish in it. I do not know much as to this fish for my own part, as I have not been able to get many to come into my net; but I have many a time had a Newt in it, when I did not want one. The Newt is not a fish, but its way of life is a good deal like that of

a fish: it can swim, and for the most part of the year will live in the pond, and not once try to come out of it. It has four legs, and can walk very well, and it will walk up and down in the mud of the pond, and now and then swim up to the top for air. It will eat very tiny fish, or the eggs of the toad or frog: it has a very long tail, and its toes have a web like the toes of a duck; its back and head, and part of its tail, are very dark; the rest of its body is of a deep red or gold hue, with now and then a dark spot on the gold. The Newt, or Eft, as some call it, is kept, now and then, in a jar, with gold fish: when this is the case, it must be fed with meat, and it will swim up and down in the jar, or walk over any bits of rock that may be in it. I can not say I like them very much, but they do no harm to any one; and if you wish to keep one in a jar to see what it is like, and what sort of ways it has, you may do so, but when you have had it for a time, it will be best to put it back into the pond, as it will then find its own food, and it will like that best, I am sure.

THE DOG.

JACK GREY has five Dogs in his yard. I saw them all to-day. One is a very big Dog, and one is of that kind that is kept to hunt the fox: but Jack had one Dog that I am sure you have not seen. It is a Turn spit Dog. At one time, many years ago, when men did not know as much as they do now, they used to cook the meat at a very big fire, on a spit; this spit was a long bar of wood, and it was made so that a Dog had to turn it. The plan it was made on was the same as that of the kind of cage that mice were put into, that will turn and turn as the mice run up the wire. You may have seen this sort of cage, for boys will now and then show one at the door with mice in it: if so, you will see how the Turn spit Dog did his work.

Jack has one Dog that we call the Bull Dog; he is ugly, but he is very bold, and he will not let any one rob the yard when he is in it. If you put down your coat and tell him to take care of it, he will not let any one go near it, and he will sit down on it, and not once get off it, till he is told that he may.

The eyes of a Dog are not like the eyes of a cat: he can not see in the dark, nor does he take his prey in the same way; he does not lie in wait and jump on it, as the cat and lion do, but will hunt it down as the wolf does. A Wild Dog does not wag its tail, nor does it bark, it will only yelp and howl. Wild Dogs live in a pack; they are not like our Dogs, but are more like the wolf in form and ways. But they are not so bold as the wolf; they will kill a good many deer, but will not come so near a town as the wolf will.

THE HAWK.

THE Hawk is a bird of prey, and will kill any bird that is less than he is. We have more than one sort of Hawk, but they have all the same ways, and much the same kind of form. One kind will eat mice, but many of them will not. A long time ago, when no one had ever seen a gun—and when no gun even had ever been made—men used the Hawk to hunt with. Many a fair lady, in that old time, rode out to take the air, with her pet Hawk on her hand, and a gay page, or boy, to hold her rein, and lead her in the path. Men, at that time, used to take the Hawk from the nest, when it was not yet so old as to be able to fly. At that age it

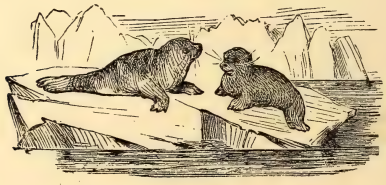
has a soft down all over it, to keep it warm, like the owl; and as soon as all this down is gone, the bird can fly. The man who had the care of the Hawk then put him into a room made for him, that they used to call "the mews." Here he was fed, and, in time, made very tame, and then he was able to go out to hunt. When the man took him out, the Hawk wore a hood over his head and eyes, so that he did not see any game, or prey, till it was time for him to fly; and he was tied to the man's fist. When a bird rose up, the man took off the hood, and let the Hawk go free. As soon as the Hawk saw his prey, he flew up in the air so high as to be able to rush down on it, and kill it with a blow from his beak. If the prey rose as high as the Hawk, it was so far safe, for a Hawk will not fly up at its prey, but will only dart down upon it. As soon as the prey was dead, the Hawk flew back to the man who took it out.

The eye of the Hawk is very keen, and its beak is like a hook. The male bird is not so big as his mate. The nest is made in a rock or high tree.

THE SEAL.

Do you know what Seal oil is? It is an oil that is used to burn in a lamp. Now that it is so easy to get gas, we do not burn much oil, but at one time it was used so much that men went out to hunt the Seal for the sake of its oil. The oil was made from the fat. The Seal is not a fish, but it has no feet, and it has a kind of fin, and by the use of its fins it can swim very well, but they are not just like the fins of a fish. The Seal has a head a good deal like the head of a bull dog, or pug dog, and it has a pair of soft, dark eyes. Its skin is very full of hair: this hair is dark, and not at all long, but very warm

we use it in many ways, and now that we do not care so much for the oil, the poor Seal gets shot for the sake of its skin. It has its home on some rock in the sea, and it will have many more of its own kind on the same rock with it, so that they may form a herd. When five or six of them get on the same rock, they will all lie side by side, and bask in the sun. They seem to like to be in the sun very much, but they also like to dive into the sea, and they do not mind ice and snow, but will even lie on an ice berg, or rock of ice. They live on fish, and dive a long way down to take it. They are so very fat that they can not very well sink in the sea—for it is not easy for fat to sink—and it is this fat that is used for oil. The Seal can not walk, for, as I told you, it has no feet; but it can move very fast for all that, for it can use its fins much in the same way that feet are used ; but it is most at home when it is in the sea, when it will dive, swim, and flap up and down for an hour or two at a time. The Seal can be made very tame.



THE BEAR.

A LONG time ago, when I was not so old as you are, a man used to come to the town that I was in with a Bear to show. He led it by a rope, and it used to get up on its hind legs, and walk up and down when the man told it to do so. This Bear had a very long coat of dark hair, like a mat, and used to put its two fore paws on the top of a pole, and sit up to beg for buns or bits of cake. It was very tame, and did not wish to hurt any one, and was very glad to get a bun.

The Bear has no tail, and its paws are not made like the paws of a dog or cat; they bend up very

much as it puts its foot down to walk, so that its feet look very flat. I have seen more than one kind of Bear kept for show: some can be made very tame, like the one I told you of, and some are not easy to tame. Some eat meat; some do not. All of them have long hair. One kind has its home in the cold snow and on the ice: this kind eats fish, and will also lie in wait for a long time at a hole in the ice for a seal to come up for air, when he will kill the seal and eat it. Men hunt this kind of Bear for the sake of its skin, as the fur is long and very warm; it is very fond of its cubs.

In a Bear hunt, if the dogs fly at the Bear, it will take them up in its arms, and hug them so hard as to kill them. It is not easy for a man to get away from it, as it can get up a tree. One kind of Bear does not like snow and ice, so when it gets cold it will make a den in a hole in some tree, and lie in it till the cold is gone: it will only wake now and then, as long as it is cold; and it gets very lean and thin, but it will soon be fat when once the cold is over.

Some men eat the Bear, and use its fat for oil; and we are told that the paws are very nice to eat.

THE OWL.

HERE is an Owl in a cage. Poor bird! It is a pity to keep him shut up in a cage all his life! In a farm yard he is of more use than a cat, but in a cage, you see, he is of no sort of use, and I am sure he does not like it. Let us set him free; we will not do so now, for the Owl can not fly well by day, but as soon as it gets dusk we will take him to the barn and open his cage door, and I know he will be only too glad to fly out. He is an odd bird to look at, he has such big eyes; and if you will look at him you will see him open and shut them

in a very odd way. His beak, you see, has a kind of hook at the end of it for him to hold his prey with. He eats mice, and when he has got one, he will take hold of it in his beak, or with his foot, and fly with it to his mate to feed her as she sits on the nest. He can fly in a very soft way, so that the mice can not hear him till he is very near them, and he can thus kill a good many. His eyes are like a cat's eyes—they can see in the dark. His nest is made in a hole in a tree, or on the beam of an old barn, or in the ivy of an old ruin. His cry is a kind of hoot, or hiss.

The Owl, when he has just come out of the egg, has a soft down all over his body, even to the end of his toes, so that he is kept very warm, and has a very odd look, like a ball of wool, or fur, with eyes in it!

THE MOTH.

Now then, let us have the lamp in, for it will soon be dark, and even now we can not see to read, or work, or play. As it is very warm, we will not shut the door; that may stay open to let in the cool air. Ah! it has let in a moth as well! I did not mean it to do that, but I do not see how the lamp can burn the moth, even if it were to go near it, so we will not put it out yet, for I want you to look at it. If it will not flit up and down so fast, you may be able to see what it is like; or we will try and take it in a net, so as not to hurt it. Now I have it! Give me the vase that is on my desk. It has a wild rose in it; we will put that out for a

time, and wipe it, and then turn it down over the Moth, and you will be able to see it very well. Now look at its wing. Does it not look soft and warm? You see it has a kind of down all over it. It has six legs, and it can walk very fast with them. This Moth was once an egg, not so big as the knob of a pin: then it was a sort of grub;—one kind of grub can spin a web, but our Moth did not do this: next, a hard case came all over the grub, so that it was not able to move or eat, and it lay in this case for a long time; at last the case had a rent in it, at one end, and out of this hole came our Moth, the same size that it is now. The Moth can fly best when it is dusk, it does not fly by day. And now that we have seen it we will put it out, and then shut the door, so that it may not come back into the room any more.

THE WOLF.

I SAW a Wolf a few days ago: you may be sure it was not a wild one; I am glad to say we have no wild ones near us. The one I saw was tied up.

The Wolf is dark grey, his hair is wiry, and his eyes are very long, and turn back from the nose to the ears, more than any eyes I ever saw, and his ears cock up. He is a good deal like a dog in form, and he eats the same sort of food, and laps like him; but he does not wag his tail, or bark. The cry of the Wolf is a long, loud howl; he does not howl much in the day time, but when it gets dusk he will howl for an hour or two at a time.

The Wolf can bear both heat and cold, but when

it is very cold, and the snow is deep, he will join with many more of his own kind and form a pack, and they will all get very bold, and fly at any one whom they may meet. Many ways are used to get rid of them; I will tell you one. Nine or ten men go out into a wood, and cut down some firs; with the fir logs they make a kind of hut, very high, so that a Wolf can not jump up to the roof: they then put some live pigs in the hut, and give them food; they then get on to the roof with as many guns as they can get, and wait. The pigs soon cry out over the food, and then, by and bye, a Wolf will be seen to lurk near, and then one or two more, till at last all the pack will come out of the wood, and rush up and down on the snow, and try to get at the pigs, and howl as loud as they can. Now is the time for the men on the roof to fire, and this they all do at once. As soon as a Wolf is shot, all the rest rush on him and eat him up; and even if he is only hurt, and not dead, they will kill him and eat him. The men keep up a fire from the guns as long as any of the pack are to be seen, but when a good many are dead the rest get shy, and go back to the wood, and run away.

THE GLOW WORM.

DOES it not seem a very odd time to ask you to take a walk with me?—for the sun has been gone down more than an hour ago: and the moon will not rise yet. It is true, you will see a star or two out in the sky, but they are not what I want you to look at just now—the star I wish to show you will be on the bank at the end of the lane, for I hope to be able to find a Glow Worm. A Glow Worm is not a real worm: it is a kind of grub with a sort of pale fire, or glow, at the end of its tail; but this fire is not at all like the fire we use to cook with; it will not burn, nor will it give out heat;

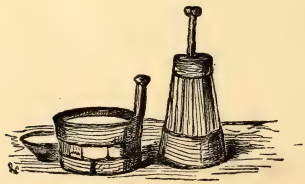
you may take the Glow Worm up in your hand, and it will not hurt you at all; it will walk up and down all over your hand, and will cast a glow on it from its tail so that you will be able to see it very well, and yet it will not burn you. The Glow Worm has this pale fire that its mate may be able to find it in the dark. The male Glow Worm can fly, and it will fly up and down over the bank in the dusk, when it will look like a very pale fire fly. The Glow Worm is fond of a damp spot to live in, and you will find more of them when the dews fall than when it is dry, but it will not come out when it is very cold. The Glow Worm, and the Glow Worm Fly, both lie at rest all the day, and do not wake up till it is dusk, when they will be out at the same time that the bat and the owl are.

THE COW.

RUN down the lane as fast as you can, and you will be in time to see the Cows. The gate is wide open, and they will all walk into the yard. One of them has a calf, of whom she is very fond; you will find that she will go up to the cow shed to see it, for she can hear it low. You know that Cows give milk, but you may not know that you will not be able to find any part of a Cow that is not of some use, when it is dead. You have a cup made of the Cow's horn, and a shoe horn as well; and you have a box made of its bone; and part of your shoe is made of its skin: and you will dine on beef to day, and will have a suet roll to eat with it.

Wild Cows do not live near us now; but at one time this was not the case, and men used to go out to hunt them; and a few of this sort are yet to be seen kept in a park. Last year, when I went to see your Aunt, she took me a ride to see some wild Cows that were kept in a park not very far from her home. I did not see them very well, for they were a long way off, near a dark wood, and we did not wish to go very near them. The man at the gate told us that when he goes into the park, the herd will come up to him, but they will not come very near: then one bull will come out from the herd to look at him, and paw the turf with his foot, and toss his head, and lash his tail, and he will then dash off, but by and bye he will come back, and stop, not so far from the man this time; and so he will go on till the man gets up a tree, or runs away, as it will not be wise of him to wait for him, as he will gore and toss him if he does.

When a calf is born, the Cow will hide it in the fern, till it can run; but if any one goes up to it, it will butt with its head and paw the turf, just like an old bull.



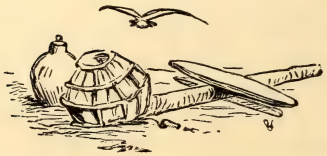
THE SEA GULL AND STAR FISH.

If you look at that Sea Gull, you will see it fly up and down just over the wet sand, now that the tide is out. Do you wish to know why it goes up and down in that way for so long a time? It is on the look out for food; for, as the tide goes out, the last wave will now and then cast up a Star Fish, or some such food, with the sea weed, and this the Gull will pick up, and find very nice. You know the Star Fish has five arms—one kind has ten. It is not good for us to eat, but the Gull will like it very much.

The nest of the Sea Gull is made on a rock, or a cave, near the sea. The Gull lays its eggs so

near the edge of the rock that, now and then, an egg will roll off and fall down. When men who live near the sea go out to fish in a boat, the Gull will fly by the side of the boat for a long time, to pick up any fish that it can get; and it will even take a fish out of the nets, if it can get it, and if the fish is not too big for it. Some men are so bold that they will get a rope, and, when they have made it fast to the top of the rock, will slip over the side, and get down to the nest of the Gull, and take the eggs to eat; but it is not at all safe for them to do this.

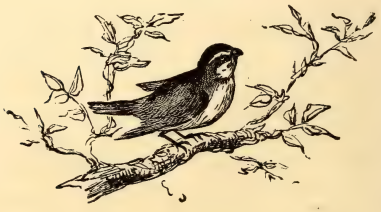
Look at that sea weed at your feet! It is pink and red. Pick it up, and give it to me; and we will take it home, and hang it in the hall; and you will see that on a fine day it will be dry, and on a wet day it will be damp; so that, if you look at it, you will be able to tell when it will rain.



THE TOM TIT.

A PAIR of Blue Tits have made a nest in the elm tree, near my bed room. They wake me up at the dawn of day, so that I am not able to lie late. You have no idea how busy they are! They are up and down the tree all day long, on the look out for food. As they eat any kind of grub, I can not tell you how much good they do. The Blue Tit, or Tom Tit, has a good deal of blue upon his head and back, and a kind of buff hue on the side of the face. One kind of Tit has a very long tail, and one, that we call the Ox Eye, is dark. None are so gay as the Blue Tit. The kind with the long tail will make a very odd sort of nest; it is made to hang to a twig like a bag, and the bird goes in and

out of a hole on one side. Boys call this nest a "poke." It is full of soft wool, and in this wool the Tit lays her eggs; she does not lay less than ten, and now and then many more. The eye of the Tit is so made that an ant or fly, or the egg of a grub, when near it, will seem to the bird as if it were as big as a hen's egg does to us. The Tit's eyes are made in this way, that no kind of grub may be able to get away from it, and I can not tell you how many it will eat in a day. It will pick them out of the buds on the rose tree or the pear, or any kind of tree, as fast as it can move its head and beak; and it will hang to a twig, with its head down and its tail up in the air. The Tits all sing, but not much. They stay with us all the year, and get very tame when it is cold.



THE LAMB.

Oh, look at the wool on the back of that Lamb! It has a soft kind of curl all over its back. What a nice Lamb! but it must not be on our lawn. How did the Lamb come here? It must have got in at some hole in the old wall, or over the bank. Oh no! I see the gate has been left open; but we must not let him stay here. You see he has just gone up to that pink, and he will bite the top off, if we do not stop him. We must send him out at once. Do not try to go up to him; he will go away from you, and run all over the beds. Go down that long walk, and turn to the left, and you

will then face him; and when he sees you, he will run out at the same gate that he came in by.

The wool of the Lamb is very soft and fine. Your cuff is made of this kind of wool, and baby has a coat made of it, to wrap her up and keep her warm when she goes out into the cold air. The veil she has over her face when it is very cold is also made of the wool of a Lamb. It does not hurt the Lamb to cut its wool off; it is glad to get rid of it when the days get very hot. This is not the only kind of Lamb: one kind is more like a goat, and has very long hair; but it does not live near here.

Now look at our Lamb skip all down the lane! See how fast he runs! He is glad to get back, and if we shut the gate, I hope he will not come in any more.

THE RING DOVE.

I HEAR the coo of a Ring Dove. The bird can not be very far off, for the coo was very loud: it must be in that elm tree, for I see a nest, and the Dove is sure to be near it. Yes, I just saw it fly into the tree; you can see the nest if you come here and look up into the top of the tree. The tree is not in its full leaf yet, so that the nest can be seen very well. The Ring Dove lays eggs at the end of May, when the elm is not in its full leaf, but it will have more than one nest in the year.

You see the nest is made of bits of twig laid flat, and some hay is put on the top of them: on this hay the Dove lays two eggs at a time. The Ring Dove is a bold bird when it has a nest; it will not let any kind of hawk, but one, come near it at that time, and that one does it no harm: but when it has no nest, it is a very shy bird, and will fly away as soon as it sees any one. It eats corn and peas, and will peck up any kind of seed that it can find. It does a good deal of harm on a farm, as it will eat the corn that has been sown, and it does not eat any kind of grub to make up for the loss. The Ring Dove can fly a very long way at a time; it has a soft kind of bill, and a red rim to its eyes, and can see very far off. It has a ring at the back of its neck of a dark grey hue, and has two bars of dark grey on each wing. It has its name from the ring on its neck. It is very fond of its mate, or wife, and will feed her as she sits on her nest. This bird will stay with us in the cold part of the year.

THE FROG AND TOAD.

It was very wet all day; the rain came down very fast, and did not once stop till it was late in the day: then the sun came out, and it was very warm. The path was damp, but it was fine over head, and even hot, so I went out for a walk. I had not been far when I met a Frog; it was a very big one, and took a leap from one side of the walk slap into a pond that was near, and then swam away! It was as much at home in the pond as on the path. The Frog lays its eggs in a pond; when it has just come out of the egg, it is all head and tail, it has no feet then, and can not live on land. Its food is duck

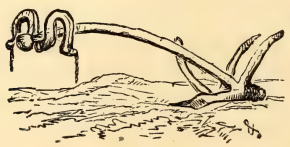
weed at this time. It has not any fins like a fish, but it can swim very fast, for all that!—for it wags its tail up and down, and from side to side, much as if it were a fin, and gets on in this way. It has a very odd look, a good deal like a dark pea, or a bead, with a flat tail; but it is full of life, and wags up and down in the pond so fast that it is not easy for your eye to keep pace with it. In time its tail will drop off, and four legs will grow on it; it will then not wish to stay in the pond, or to feed on duck weed any more, but will come out, and live, for the most part, on land, and will then eat ants, and such food, and be a real Frog. The eggs of the Frog, and of the Toad also, are laid in a kind of bag or sack. The Frog can hop a long way at each leap, for its size, and it has an odd cry. The Toad does not cry out so loud as the Frog, nor can it hop so well. The Frog and Toad are a good deal like when they are just out of the egg. The Toad is very fond of a dark, damp hole to live in, and it will live a very, very long time. As it eats the slug and worm, it does much good.

THE ZEBU.

THE Zebu is a kind of cow or ox. It is not just like our cows and oxen, for its ears hang down on each side of its face, and it has a hump on its back, near its neck. It is a dark grey, or buff, and has very mild eyes. The Zebu oxen do not live near us; they live a long way off; they come from Asia; you will find Asia on the map, if you like to look for it. The Zebu is used in Asia to draw a cart; it will not walk very fast, but it will do a good deal of work in a day. Now and then a fine lady of

rank goes out in a Zebu car; she sits in the car with a veil over her face, and a maid by her side. The rich man who owns the Zebu oxen will not let his wife ride in a car that is not very gay; and to make it so, he will dye the neck of the ox a deep red, and put a tuft of red or blue wool on its brow, and a dash of red dye on each horn, and it will have a red or blue net all over its back. The yoke also is made very gay: the yoke is a beam of wood made to go over the neck of the ox, for it to draw the car with; this beam is made fast to the pole of the car, so that two oxen can draw at once, and rich men dye this yoke of a red or blue hue, or even gild it with gold. The lady not only has her maid with her when she goes out, but two men walk, one on each side of the car, to wait upon her and help to take care of her.

Zebu oxen like to go into a pool, and they get in so deep that the mud on the side of the pool is all over them, so that no one can see any part of them but the head. They will stay in this cool mud all the hot part of the day, and not come out till the sun has set.



THE WASP.

YOU have not been down the turf walk for a long time. When you do go, you must look at the rose bush at the end, by the old ivy wall. On this rose you will find a very odd ball, and I dare say you will not know what this ball is, if you are not told. It is of a pale hue, and is so firm on the tree that you will not be able to pull it off if you try; nor will it be wise of you to do so, for it is the nest of a Wasp, and you must not go too near it. You may sit down on the old turf seat, and look at it; you will then be so far off as to be safe, and you will then see a hole at the end of the ball. By and bye a Wasp will come out of the hole, it may be, or one will go in. This nest is made of bits of old

wood that have been in the rain and sun till they are soft: a very old post, or gate, or part of an old tree, will any of them do very well. The Wasp will bite off bits of the old wood to make the nest of, and it has a kind of glue in its body, so that it can make the bits of wood firm on the rose bush; and the nest is so made that no rain or wet can get into it, but runs off as it does from a roof. One kind of Wasp does not make its nest in a tree, but in some bank. The Wasp, like the bee, puts its egg into a cell; but the cell is, for the most part, made of old wood, like the nest, and not of wax, like the cell of a bee. One kind will make a sort of door to shut up the hole of its nest when it is wet, and this nest has a good deal the look of a cup with a lid to it. The grub of this kind is fed on a fly, and the old Wasp will put a dead fly into the nest for the grub to feed on, and shut the door down to keep it safe. In time, the grub will eat the fly, and then gnaw its way out: it will then be a Wasp.

THE COD FISH.

WHEN I went to the sea side, I was glad to find that Sam Ward had come back once more. I dare say his wife and baby were very glad to see him, for he had been from home some time; when he goes away it is to fish for Cod, and as he has to go a long way off in his boat to find the Cod, he will stay out for a week or two at a time. The Cod is a fish that is of much use to us: it is not at all bony, and is very nice to eat; we also use it as a salt fish. It is cut open, and hung up in the air to dry, and a good deal of salt is put to it to make it keep: when this has been done it will not go bad, but will keep for a year or two. An oil is made from the Cod, also, that is of much use to any one who is very weak. Jane Ray was so ill, poor girl!

with a very bad cold, that she was not able to sit up in bed, and she had to take some of this oil: it did her good, and in a week or two she was able to walk very well, and she can now go to work as she used to do; but she told me this oil was not at all nice.

When Sam goes out in his boat, he has one or two men with him to help him to take the fish; and if they have good luck, they will soon fill the boat with them. The men who fish for Cod do not take a net, but have a line and hook; the fish will bite at the bait very fast, so that a good many can be got at one time: as soon as the boat is full, the men go home at once, and sell as many as they can; the rest they salt.

All fish come from eggs, and the Cod has so many at a time, that it is very easy to get; and when it is salt, the poor can buy it, and not find it too dear.

THE ROOK AND CROW.

WHAT a nice fine day it is! The men at the farm will be able to get the corn in very well on such a nice day. You can see the man who sows it from here, if you like. He has a bag with the corn in it hung by his side, and he sows it as he goes up and down the hill. Do you see that big, dark bird? Wait a bit, and you will see it fly over the hill. Now it has gone down on to the red soil near the man. It is a Rook, and you will soon see some more, for this bird is sure to have more of its own kind near it. Look! five or six more just come

over the hill. You may be sure of this at any time: that if you see one Rook, more are not far off. Now this is not the case with the Crow, who will only live with its own mate, and will not let any bird of its own kind come near its nest, nor does it like a Rook to make a nest in a tree near its own. The Rook is of much use on a farm, for it eats a kind of grub that does harm to the crop: it is true, it eats some corn now and then, but none to hurt, and the good it does will more than pay for that. The nest of the Rook is made in a high tree. I have seen as many as six in one elm: it is made of bits of twig, and the nest of the Crow is made in much the same way. The Rook has a very hard bill, and it will poke it deep into the soil to seek for a grub or worm, and it will then dig it out and eat it: no one can ever tell how much good it does by this! The Crow is very fond of eggs to eat, and will rob the nest of any bird it can get at, and it does not do us good, like the Rook. It is not easy to tell the Rook from the Crow, as they are like in many ways.

THE LAMA.

WHEN next Aunt Kate and I go into town, we mean to buy a blue hood of Lama wool for Anna Lee's baby. The baby will look very nice in it, and it will be soft and warm for it. We will have the pony and gig some day soon, and take it to Anna, and you will then see the baby in it, and I am sure you will like that very much, and I dare say you will be glad to hear what the Lama—from whom we get the wool to make the hood—is like.

The Lama is much the same size as the deer, but its body is not so slim, nor are its legs so thin.

Its home is a long way from us, so that we only see it in a show; but in its own land it is of as much use to the men who live near it, as the rein deer is to the Lapp. It has a very long, soft kind of wool on its back; this is spun in the same way as the wool of the lamb. The Lama is not used to draw a cart, but it will go a long way with a load on its back; it will lie down to have the load put on its back, and if it is too big, it will not get up, but when the pack is of a size that it can take, it will then get up and walk off with it. When it has gone on for a long time, it will want to rest; it will then lie down once more, nor can any one make it get up as long as it does not wish to do so: it will have its own way, and if the men who are with it try to make it move, or beat it, it will spit at them, but it will not stir: at last, when it has a mind to do so, but not till then, it will get up and go on. It can bite very hard, but it does not do this to any one who is kind to it, nor will it spit in this case. Its feet are so made that it can go up and down hill with ease. The wool of the Lama is dyed when it is spun; as it is, for the most part, grey.

THE SWAN.

THE Tame Swan is a very fine bird; we also call him the Mute Swan, for he has no cry. The Wild Swan is not so big as the Tame Swan, and he is not mute; he has a very loud cry, but he does not sing. He does not fly much by day, but as soon as the sun has set, he will rise up from some lake or mere, and fly for a long time, and he will like it best when the moon is at the full. A mere is a kind of lake, or very big pool, but it is not so deep as a lake in any part of it. More than one Swan will live on the same lake, and when many of them fly all at once, one is sure to take the lead: this

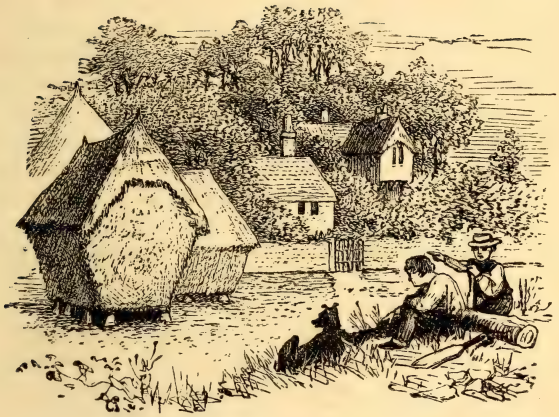
bird is an old one, who will know his way well, and can take care of the rest; and as they all fly from one mere to the next, he will cry out from time to time for the rest to hear, that none of them may be lost.

The Wild Swan eats a kind of weed that lies on the top of the lake, and the Tame, or Mute, Swan will eat corn or seed as well, and has to be fed. The nest of both is made by the side of the pool, in the reed beds, when they grow high, for the Swan does not like his nest to be seen, and will fly at any one who goes near it: and his bill is so hard that a blow from it will hurt very much. A kind of rush, also, will hang over the nest, and hide it, for the stem of this rush is very tall, and the leaf is very long, not at all like the kind you see by our pond. The Swan lays two eggs. It has a soft down next its skin; I dare say you have seen this down; we use it in many ways, but the Swan uses it to keep out the wet.

THE SILK WORM.

NEXT week I mean to go and see a boy whom I know, who has a tray of Silk Worm eggs, and I will take you with me that you may see them also. Each egg will turn into a grub, and each grub will spin a kind of web that will be silk. The boy who has them will take the silk off the grub, and wind it on a reel; but he will have to put the grub into bran to keep it warm, as it will not live when the silk is gone if it is left in the cold air; it will then have a case all over it, so as to be hard, and in a few days it will be a moth. To keep the Silk Worm eggs safe, he will put them into a flat tray made of card, and will keep them out of the way

of any bird. When a grub has come out of one of the eggs, it will be put into a new tray, made deep on the side, with a leaf or two from the tree it is most fond of, to eat. When it has been left here for some time, it will spin its web in the way I have just told you. If the silk is left on the grub it will, in time, bite its way out, and then it will not be a grub, but a moth, and the silk will be of no use. It will take many and many a web to make up a yard of silk as we see it! Silk, when it is on the grub, is a fine buff, not very dark, and is very soft. We use silk in many ways, to sew with, as well as to wear; and when you see the ball of silk on the Silk Worm, you will find how much will have to be done to it to make it fit for us to put on. We do not get much silk from our own land, for the Silk Worm will not live in any but a very warm spot; so that if a very cold wind were to blow upon it at any time, it must die.



THE WREN.

When I was in our rick yard, one day last week, I saw a bird fly into a hole in the wall of the cart shed. I went up to the spot to see what sort of a bird it was, and why it went into that deep hole; but it had got so far down that I only saw its beak and eyes. It was a hen bird, for the cock sat on a tree near, and just then gave me a song. It was a Wren. I then went away and left her. Next day, when I came, she was gone, and I saw her nest with four pale eggs in it. The cock will sing to her and feed her as long as she sits on her eggs. The song of the Wren is loud for its size, and it will sing, more or less, all the year. It does not go

away from us as soon as it is cold, but the mark of its tiny feet may be seen even on the snow; and it will hop near our door, as if to ask for food, when the ice is so hard as to keep from it the food it is most fond of; for it does not live on seed, but eats ants, and the eggs of any kind of grub or fly, and it will eat the grub as well, when it can find it. This kind of bird has been seen to make its nest in an old hat that hung on a nail on the wall; and once a Wren made a nest in the lock of an old gate.

One kind of Wren has a top knot of a gay gold hue on its head. This kind is not even so big as the bird we have just seen, and its nest is not more than half the size of a hen's egg. This nest is made in an oak tree, and the Wren will live in the tree, and not want to go out of it; for it will find its food in the bark, and run up and down it, and fly from twig to twig all day long, as busy as a bee.

THE LION.

LAST week I went to a fair, and saw a Lion in a show. He was in a cage, or den, and did not seem very wild. He had a mane of very long hair all down his neck, and his paws were like a cat's paws, only they were so very big. He had a long tail, with a tuft of hair at the end of it. He lay down all the time I was in the show, and did not get up to walk at all: I wish very much he had got up for me to see him walk. His eyes, too, were shut, and he did not once open them all the time I was near

him: his eyes are like a cat's eyes, and can see in the dark.

The Lion, when he is free, and not in a cage, does not like to live in a land so cold as ours; his own land is so warm that even the very wind is hot, and the sun is like a fire. The Lion can not bear cold, and will soon die if he is not kept warm. His roar is very loud, so that you can hear it a long way off; he can also pur like a cat, only the pur is loud, and not soft like a cat's. He will also hide in a bush, and jump out on his prey like a cat does on a bird; so that you see the Lion and cat are very like in many ways.

When the deer or oxen lie down to rest in a cool spot, when the hot day is over, the Lion will lurk near them till they are all still, and then dash out upon them with a loud roar, and, with one blow from his paw, will kill his prey.

When a Lion is kept in a cage, he is fed on raw meat, and will eat a good deal in a day. When he has a good meal, he lies down to rest, like the one I saw at the show.

THE ANT.

I MUST say I have not had a very nice walk. All went on well till I sat down on a bank to rest; but I did not see that an Ant's nest was on this bank, and I sat down so near it, that I was all over Ants. I soon got up; but it was not easy to get rid of them all, and I am not sure that I have not some on me now. I do not like this, for an Ant can hurt a good deal, but not so much as a wasp. The Ant is as busy as the bee, and, some time, you will like to see its nest, and to look at it at work. The nest is made in some dry part of a bank, or on the

side of a heap of soil: the Ants fill the nest with food, laid by for the time when it gets too cold for them to be out of the nest: they will lay up corn, or any kind of seed—or rice, if you will give them a bit. At one time of the year Ants can fly: this is when the nest gets so full of them that some have to go away; they then fly off to a new spot on the bank, or to some clod of soil a good way off, and they then form a new nest: as soon as they have done this, they can not fly any more, but they can run very fast. They are very busy, for they have to make a cell for each egg, and to lay up food to eat when it is too cold to go out of the nest.

Some Ants—not like ours—that live a long way off, in a hot land, make so big a nest that it is as tall as a man, and has a good deal the look of a hay cock, only it is not made of hay; and one kind will eat into a dead tree, if it can find one that lies down, so that no part is left but the bark, and will also run all over the wall of a room, and eat up any kind of odds and ends, and will do a good deal of harm in this way.

THE CARP, PIKE, AND EEL.

NED has been down to the pool to fish: he took his rod and line with him, and a can to put his fish in. When he came back, he had in the can some Carp, and a Pike: some men call the Pike a Jack. The Carp is not like the Pike, but both are good to eat. The Carp is a fish with a high back that goes up in an arch; the Pike is long and thin, and has a long nose. The Carp is a lazy fish, and gets very fat: it is fond of the mud, and can be made so tame as to come to be fed at the side of a pond: I have been told that some Carp will even come

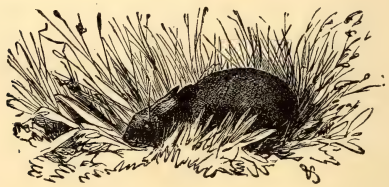
when they hear a bell rung to call them up to have some food. The Pike is a fish that will eat any kind of food that it can get at (I do not mean that it will eat a weed), and if it is put into a pond with a good many more fish that are less than it is, it will soon eat them all up, and it will not care if they are of its own kind or not. It is not tame, but it is very bold, and will dash at the bait, and not seem to mind a hook. Both the Carp and the Pike will grow to be a good size: they will not live in the sea.

Last week Ned went down to the pool just as it grew dusk, and put a line into it at the very edge, and made it fast to the side: he did this in more than one part of the pool, and when he had put in five or six, he left them. Next day he went down to the pool to see them, and pull them up. One line had an Eel on it. The Eel is long and thin like a worm, but it has fins, and can swim,—or wave its body up and down in the pool. Eels like mud, and lie in it a good deal. They are good to eat, and one kind will grow to be a yard or two long.

THE HARE.

WHEN I was by the ash wood a day or two ago, I sat to rest on the top rail of the gate. As I did not move at all for a long time, a Hare, who was in the wood, did not know I was near, and so came out to feed just at my feet. It was a good big Hare, and had a fine pair of long ears; I was very glad it did not see me, for the Hare is very shy, and will run away if any one goes near it. Its eyes are full and dark, and it can see any body a very long way off; it does not shut them even when it is at rest. It runs very fast, with a kind of

skip or hop, and can jump very well: its fore legs are not so long as its hind ones, so that it can run up a hill with more ease than down one. It is very full of play when it is dusk, and will jump up and down, and leap over any turf heap, or low bush, as gay as can be. The Hare eats most of its food when it is dusk: in the day time it lies flat down with its eyes wide open, and its ears back; it lies for the most part in a tuft of fern, or by a bush, and its nest is made in some bush or fern tuft; we call the spot that it lies in, its "form." The Hare I saw when I was on the gate sat up on its hind legs to wash its face with its fore paws; when it had done this, it ate some of the oats that grew near, and ran up and down on the turf, and gave a kick with its hind feet, as if in fun: just as it did this, it saw me; this made it stop and look up at me, and then it ran back into the wood, and I saw no more of it, but I dare say it came back as soon as I was gone.



THE LORY.

I WENT, a few days ago, to see an old Lady whom I know, who has a Lory in a cage in her room. The Lory is a bird: it is not only red and blue, but has many gay hues as well: it does not sing, but it can talk: it will say a word or two so well that we can make it out, but a good deal of its talk is not so easy to find out. It will not say any word that it does not hear over and over many a time, for it to get it well into its mind. It will hold its head on one side and look very hard at any one who says the word to it, and then it will try if it can say it too: in time it will be able to do so, and then it

will not want to hear it any more, but will try it over in a low tone, when it does not know that any one is by, as if to make sure that it will not lose it.

This bird is very tame, and gets fond of any one who is kind to it. It has a hard bill, with a hook to it, and it can hang by this hook and its feet, so as to have its head down and its tail in the air in a very odd way. The one I saw has a hoop or ring hung up in the room it is kept in, and it will sit in this ring for an hour or more, and not once wish to fly away. It is very fond of a bath, and is fed on sop and corn, but it can eat a hard nut also. When I saw it, it had a plum to eat, and it held this fast with one foot. The Lory does not live in our land; you will not see one in the wood; its own home is very hot, and when it is in it, it will live with many more of its own kind. It lays two eggs at a time.

THE MOLE.

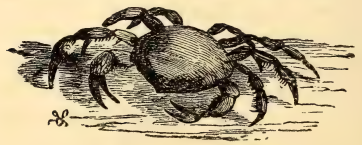
WHEN I last went out at the gate into the lane, I saw a Mole hill on the turf by the path. A Mole hill is a heap of dirt made by the Mole, who has his home in the soil an inch or two from the top. I do not know if you have ever seen a Mole; if not, you may wish to hear what it is like. It is the same size as a rat; and it has a very odd, long nose, like that of a pig, made to rout with. The eyes of the Mole are not easy to see, nor are the ears, as they are sunk in the fur. It digs in the soil with its fore paws and its nose; it does this to get at its food. The worm is the food it is most

fond of, but it will eat any kind of grub or slug that it can find in its path. It will pass its life in the soil, and will only come up to the top now and then. It can not run very fast when it does come up, as its feet grow out very much on each side of its body: they are of more use to dig with, and get rid of the soil, than to walk upon. The Mole is most fond of a damp, wet part of the turf to work in, and does not like dry sand: its skin is very soft, and has a warm fur all over it. I do not know that the Mole does much harm, but as it will bore a hole in the best turf, so as to make it look far from tidy, men take it in a trap, or kill it with a dog. It is not easy to tame it, for it does not like any one to look at it, and will hide in the soil as soon as a foot goes near it: its ears are very keen, so that it can hear a step a long way off, and when you want to see it at work, you will have to wait a long time, and not once move, or it will not come up to the top of its run, as we call its hole. Its nest is in the turf; it digs out a hole to make it in, and is most fond of a clay soil for it, as the top is not then so apt to fall in.

THE CRAB.

I HAVE just been to the pier to have a long chat with old Ross. The pier, you know, is that long bit of land that runs out into the sea. Old Ross and his wife live in a hut by the sea side; this hut is on a rock very near the sea, and he goes out in his boat to get fish for sale. I went to day to see him mend his boat; a bit of wood had come out, so that the boat was not safe, and when he had put a new bit in and made it fast, he put some tar on it, that he had made hot in an iron pot over a fire. I have also seen him mend his nets; he dips his nets in the tar as well as puts it over his boat, and a

good deal of the tar gets on old Ross as well as on the boat and the nets. As the tar is used to keep out the wet, he puts some of it into each seam in his boot also, so that he does not get his feet wet when he puts them into the sand or sea. By his hut he has a deep tub, sunk into the sand, to keep some of his fish in when he is not able to sell them; some will live a long time in this tub. He took a Crab out of it to show me when I was with him last. The Crab has a hard case over its back, and has long, hard arms, with a claw at the end of each. The Crab goes in a very odd way: it runs side ways. If the Crab has the ill luck to lose a claw, a new one will grow in time, so that it can run as well as ever. It is very fond of the sand, and will make a hole in it to live in. Ross sets a trap for it in the sea; this trap has much the look of a bird cage made of wood: some meat or fish is put into it for a bait, and when the crab has got in to eat it, he will not be able to get out. A crab is not red till you cook it, you know, but is very dark.



THE LYNX.

HAVE you ever seen a Lynx? or do you know what it is like? If not, I will try if I can tell you. The Lynx is not so big as a wolf; it is more like a fox in size, and it has very long ears with a tuft of hair at the end of each ear that has a very odd look. It has a very keen pair of eyes that can see a very long way off. The Lynx lies in wait for his prey in some bush or hole that will hide him, so that he may not be seen, and then when any bird goes near him, he will jump out on it and kill it, much in the same way that a cat does. It will eat

a good big bird, or even a lamb if one has the ill luck to get in its way, and it will lurk in the dark for a very long time. As it will kill more than it can eat at once, it does a good deal of harm, and men try to take it in a trap. This trap is not like a rat trap, but is made with a beam of wood to fall on the Lynx when he puts his feet on it to pull out the bait. The bait is a bit of raw meat, or a dead bird, or dead lamb.

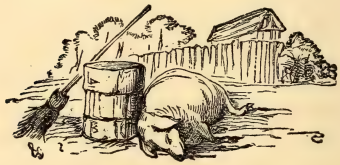
The fur of the Lynx is of use, as it is nice and soft. The Lynx can be made tame, but it is not a very easy task to tame it, for it is very apt to snap at and bite anybody who goes near it. Even when it is kept in a yard, or tied up like a dog, it does not make a nice pet, and it is not safe to play with it.

THE PIG.

DEAR me! I see no less than ten Pigs in the road! I must own I am not very fond of Pigs, but they are much used for food. Pork is not the very best kind of meat, for at that time of the year when it is very hot, as in June or July, it is apt to make any one ill who eats much of it; a Jew or a Turk will not eat it at any time. The Pigs in the road look as if they were on the way to some fair to be sold; you see a boy is with them who has a long pole in his hand, to poke them on with when they stop to rout in the mud, and they are so lazy that they need this.

Pigs, with us, are not wild, but in Asia men hunt the Wild Boar. The Wild Boar has a long tusk in each jaw, and he will make a rush at the men when they get near him, and try to tear and rip them with his tusk. When he is in a rage he will foam at his jaws, and dash up and down as fast as he can run, and the hair on his neck will rise up like a mane. Men like very much to go out to hunt the Wild Boar, but they may get hurt if they do not take care. You see he is not at all like our dull Pigs who will not get out of the way even if we give them a hard push, and who eat and cram as long as they can get food, and even till they are so fat that they can not walk.

A herd of Wild Hogs will do much harm if they get into a rice bed; rice will only grow in mud, and Pigs are very fond of mud, and like to rout in it, and to lie and roll in it, and they will pull up the rice by the root, and eat it, so that men have to be set to look out for them, and keep them off the rice beds.



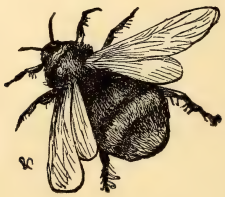
THE BEE.

I WENT down to the wood an hour or two ago, just at noon, and sat for a long time on the bank by the old ash tree. The root of the ash juts out of the bank, and the turf is very soft and firm, so that it is a very nice seat: a wild rose and some ivy hang over it, and from it you see a very fine view. I had not sat down for more than half an hour when I saw a Wild Bee fly into a hole in the bank at my side: by and bye he came out, and flew away, but he very soon came back once more; and he flew to and fro in this way all the time I was on the seat. This Wild Bee had a nest in the bank, and was

busy at work to fill it with food, for Bees have a kind of bag that will hold the food.

We have more than one kind of Bee with us: one is the Hive Bee, and we have many Wild Bees. One kind has its nest in old wood, such as a post or gate, or a hole in a tree; and one kind, like the one I saw when I was on the seat, has its nest in a bank. The Hive Bees are not so big as the wild ones, nor are the wild ones all of the same size. You have seen a very big Bee come into a room, and buzz all over it, up and down, and then fly out with a hum: this is one kind of Wild Bee.

In the hive, one Bee only lays all the eggs, and some of the rest feed her, and one egg is put in each cell. Out of this egg a grub will come, and when it has been fed a long time, this grub will turn into a Bee. You know very well what nice food Hive Bees have, and how hard they work to get it; but you may not know that Wild Bees are just as busy, for they also have food to get



THE CAT.

OUR poor old Cat is dead! She was very old, and for some time past has not been well. We made her a bed of hay by the fire, and she lay on it all day, and was fed with soft meat and milk, for we were very fond of her: but, at last, she died of old age. I am to have a new Cat now that she is gone: I have seen her; she is at a farm a long way from here, more than a mile. She will come here in a few days, and I hope she will not find her way back, for I hear that Cats are very apt to go back to any home that they know well. I shall be very glad to see Miss Puss, as she will kill the mice and

rats; but I hope she will not take any bird, for I am so fond of a bird. She is very neat, and will keep her fur very tidy, and will lick her paws, and then rub them over her face to wash it; and she will not put her feet into any wet spot if she can help it, and when it is not fine she will not go out, but will stay and purr by the fire all day.

The Wild Cat is grey, and has a long tail, very full of fur: the sole of its foot is very dark, and it has wild, keen eyes. It can see best when it is dark, and when it gets into a wood, it will kill so much game that it will do more harm, even, than a fox. The men who take care of the game try to take it in some kind of trap, but it is so wild that, even then, they do not much like to go near it, for it will fly at the eyes in a rage, and tear them, if it can, so that they are very glad to find a sort of trap that will kill it at once.

THE WILD DUCK.

NOT long ago I went to stay some time in a farm near the Fens. The Fens are a low, flat kind of land that lies near the sea: they are very damp and wet, and have much mud in them: the rush and reed grow all over them, and you do not see any tree like the oak or elm, as they will not live in such damp mud: the soil is, for the most part, a kind of peat, or bog, and is not dry, even in the hot part of the year, and when it is cold the Fens are all over ice. They are full of wild fowl, such as the teal, and wild duck, the moor hen, and coot. At one time of the year each reed bank is sure to have a nest in it. When I was at the farm I told you of, one of the men used to go out with a gun to kill the wild fowl, and in this way I saw many a Wild

Duck. The men have an odd kind of trap to take the wild fowl with. I will tell you how this is done. The men on the farm get a Duck made of wood, so like a real one that it is not easy to see that it is not one. This Duck is made to swim on the lake, and it is kept near the side by a line. The men hide in the reed beds, and lie in wait till the wild fowl see the Duck that is made of wood: as they do not know that it is not a real one, they feel safe as long as they see it on the lake, so they fly down to join it, and when they come near they are shot by the men who are in wait for them. The Wild Duck is not so big as the tame one, but it can fly very well, and dive and swim. Wild fowl of this kind fly in a long line, and, for the most part, just as it gets dusk.

RATS AND MICE.

As Jem and I went into the yard we saw such a big Rat run into the barn: it is a pity that the barn has Rats in it, for they do so much harm to the corn, and we must hope they will not get into the fowl pen, or dove cote, for they will eat the eggs. Rats are very bold; they will fly at some cats, and it is a good one that will kill them and not mind them when they bite her. The bite of a Rat is not very easy to cure, and many cats will not face a Rat for fear of it. When once Rats have got into a barn or shed, it is very hard to get rid of them: they will make long runs in the soil from one shed to the next, so that they can get all

over the farm and yet not be seen. Rats like the dark best, and are very busy as soon as it gets dusk. They eat any kind of food they can find; corn, or eggs, or meat, or ham: they do much harm in a mill, for they will soon gnaw a hole in a meal sack and get at the corn, and in a ship the men are even less glad to see them, for they will make a mess of much that they do not eat. I am sure we must send for a man with some dogs who know how to hunt them, and see if we can get rid of them; but this will not be easy, for they are very sly, and will not run into a trap two at a time, as Mice have been seen to do.

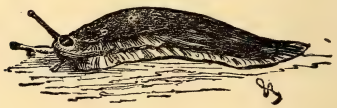
Mice are not so big as Rats, and are not so bold, nor do they do so much harm: they will bite if any one lays hold of them; but this they do out of fear, and I am very sure they will not fly at any one. Mice can be made so tame as to draw a tiny cart, or to turn a toy mill, and even to sit up with a flag, held up by the fore paws.

THE SLUG.

I HAVE just had some bad luck: I will tell you how it was. I had just sown a row of peas on one of my beds, and they all grew. The row was a nice long one, and had no gap in it from end to end: each pea that I had set had come up, and not one was lost. I had put a few bits of gay rag on a line over them to keep away the tits and jays, who are very fond of peas. All went on well, and they grew nice and tall, when I went to look at them, and saw that all the tops were gone! and one or two had not a leaf left: only a bare stem met my view! I soon saw what had done all the harm;

it was not the jays nor tits, but was the work of a Slug, or I may say, it was done by nine or ten. We had had a fall of rain, and rain is what they like, so they had come out and had made a fine meal on my poor peas! I set to work at once to pick them off, and I then threw them into the lake. I shall put some soot all over the soil near my peas, for the Slug does not like soot: the dust gets on its damp back and will not come off, and it does not like this at all, but if the soot gets wet, it does not care for it so much. Salt, also, will keep the Slug away, but then it may kill the peas, so I shall not gain much by that.

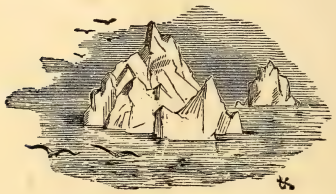
The Slug has a soft body, and no bone: its eye is at the end of its horn, and it can put its horn in or out, just as may suit it best. It lays its eggs on some leaf, or in the soil. It does so much harm that I must try to get rid of it; a sea gull will soon free my peas from it, if I can get a tame one; but it is not very easy to do that, even when you live by the sea.



THE BLUE FOX.

JOE NEAL, a man whom I know, told me he had once been to a very cold land, a long way off. He went in a ship, and was out on the sea for many a long day. The land he went to is very far from here, and it is so cold that the sun can not thaw the ice and snow, so that they stay all the year. Joe Neal saw a bear and a Blue Fox in the snow. This Fox is not a real blue, but a kind of grey, only it has the name of the Blue Fox for all that. It has a very soft warm fur, with long hair; this fur is very nice for a muff, or a boa, to keep us warm,

and men go out to take the Fox in a trap for the sake of its skin. Joe Neal told me that the men find the Fox very sly; when the day's hunt is over, and they sit down by the fire to rest, the Fox will come very near, and even peep into the pot to see what is to be got to eat. He will come up with so soft a step that no one can hear him, and will poke his nose into the pot, and try to take out the meat. If the men stir, or turn to look at him, off he runs, as fast as he can; and then, when all are at rest, he will come back, and try once more to get the meat out of the pot. You will want to know what the Blue Fox can get to eat in so cold a land, but he will find more than one kind of bird, such as the wild duck, and the swan; and he will eat fish as well, for at the time of the year when it is most cold, and no bird will stay, the Fox also goes, and gets near the sea, so as to pick up any fish that may be left by the surf.



THE GNAT.

LOOK at the rain! Does it not fall fast! Look how it runs all down the roof of the barn, and from that on to the next roof till it goes into the rain cask, or butt, in the yard; by and bye Ann will go for some of that very rain to put in the jug that is in your bed room for you to wash in, and I shall be very glad if I am able to show you, in the jug, what a Gnat is like when it has just come out of its egg. You know what a Gnat is; you had a bite from one a day or two ago just as it grew dusk, and your arm was very red for some time. You have seen the Gnat fly up and

down when the sun has set, but I dare say you do not know that when it has just come out of its egg it is more like a tiny fish than a Gnat. The Gnat lays its eggs in damp wood, such as the rain butt in the yard, or in any post or log of wood that is in a pool or pond. When it has just come out of its egg it will not be able to fly, or live in the air, but will lead the same kind of life that a fish does. It has a tiny head and a long tail (or body, as you may call it) with a fork at the end of it, and it wags this tail so fast that it is not easy to see it. For some time it will swim in this way, but at last it will get out of the rain butt, or pond, and cast off its skin, and come out of it a Gnat, who will be able to fly in the air, and who will not be able to live at all in the pond any more. Fish are very fond of the Gnat for food: you may see them rise from a pool to take it, when it is just over them. It is also fine food for more than one kind of bird, and for the bat, as well.

THE LARK.

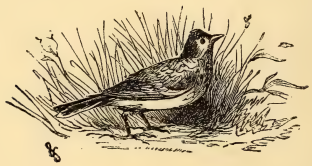
HARK! do you not hear a bird? You can not see it, it is too far up in the blue sky; it is up so high in the air that you can only see a dot or spot: and now you can not see it at all; but you can hear it all the time. How loud its song is! That bird is a Sky Lark. The song of the Sky Lark is very fine, and he will sing all day long. His nest is low down in the corn, or on the turf, and the hen Lark will sit on her eggs in the nest, and her mate will pour out his song to her, high over her head; when he has done, he will drop down to the nest by her side. By and bye she will get off the nest to feed,

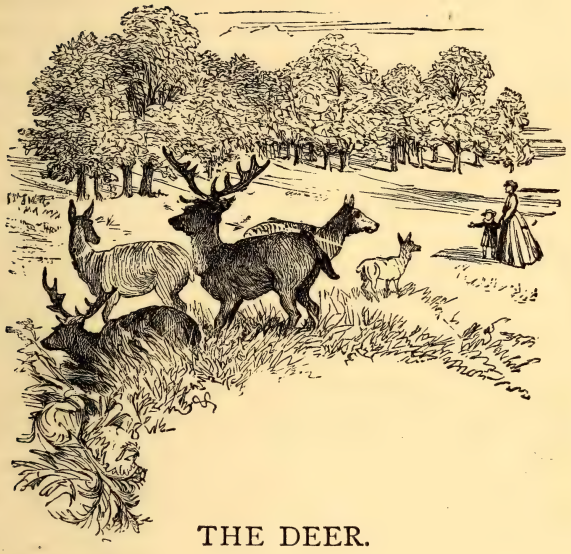
and when she has had some food, her mate will rise up in the air as he did just now, and sing away as hard as ever. I am very fond of the Lark, and love to hear him sing. He eats wood lice and ants, and such kind of food; he will not eat corn or seed, for his body is so made that he can not do so. He has a long claw at the back of each foot; and runs, but does not hop. He has a tuft on the top of his head.

If you will get up at the dawn of day, some time, you will find the Lark up, too, and will hear his song as loud and fine as it is now, and he will sing till late in the day: he is a very busy bird.

Nor is this our only kind of Lark: we have also the Wood Lark, and the Tit Lark. The Wood Lark is not so big as the Sky Lark, and does not sing high up in the sky as he does, nor does he make his nest in the corn or turf, he puts it in a bush, and it is from a bush or tree that he will, for the most part, sing. His song is very fine.

The nest of the Tit Lark is also made in a bush, and it is not so big as the Sky Lark or Wood Lark, nor is its song so fine. They all live upon the same kind of food.





THE DEER.

COME with me into the park to see the Deer. Let us walk down that path on the left, and I feel sure you will find some. Yes, there they are, I can see six! but some of them you can not see for the fern. That tall buck is very near; look, what dark soft eyes he has! He sees us, but he does not run away; you see he is tame, and does not fly from us like a Wild Stag. Now you can see the doe and her fawn. The fawn can not run fast yet, its legs are weak, but it will soon be able to run by the side of the doe on the soft turf, and in a day or two I dare say you will see it run very fast.

The Deer in the park are not so big as the Red Deer, or Wild Stag; and the Roe Buck is not so big as the Deer in the park are. A Roe Buck can not well be kept in a park, as he will bite off all the buds on a tree that he can get at, and he will then bite and pull off the bark if it is not too hard for him, so that he does a good deal of harm in a wood, if he gets into it, and he can leap so well that a wall must be very high to keep him in. The Red Deer, or Stag, also, is too wild to be kept in a park. When a Red Deer has to be shot it must be done with a gun that will kill him a long way off, for he will not let any one come near him, and his eyes are so good that he can see a man on a hill more than a mile off, if he does not lie down and hide from view in a bush, or at the back of some crag.

THE BAT.

WILL you come out to the rick yard with me to look for a Bat? I feel sure we can see one soon, if we look for it by the side of the old yew tree, or by the cart shed. Bats are a good deal like mice, only they can fly; they flit up and down in a very odd way, and keep near a rick or shed, or else by the side of a tree; but they can fly very fast when they like, only that they seem to flit like a moth. The Bat has soft, dark fur all over its body—for, you know, it is not a bird; and it has long ears. Its eyes look only half open, but it can see very well. We find Bats of much use to us, for they eat any kind of fly, moth, or gnat, and, like a cat

or an owl, they can see best in the dusk. They do not come out in the day at all, but they hide in some nook of a shed, or hole of a wall, till it gets dark. The Bat can not be said to have any real feet, but at the end of each wing it has a hook or claw; by this hook it will hang to the edge of a shed, or to a beam of wood in a barn all day long, and, as soon as it gets dusk, it will let go its hold, and flit out into the air to seek for its food. Five or six bats will hang in this way all in a row, in some dark barn or old ruin, and come out as soon as the sun sets. The Bat does not fly much when it is wet or cold; but when it is very cold, he gets into some nice hole in a tree, or by the side of a rick, and lies snug and safe till it is warm once more, nor does he ever wake up till the cold is over. I like very much to see the Bats; when they are out it is sure to be fine and warm, and as they do no harm to any one, and as each time they flit past us they will eat a gnat or two, we must be glad when they are near us.

THE SOLE.

WHEN I went down to the back door just now, I saw a man who had some fish to sell: he had them in a flat tray on his head, and he put his tray on the step for me to see the fish. The cook went out to buy some from him; she said all the fish were very nice, but she only took a Sole, and this she will fry for us to dine upon. You must look well at it, for it is an odd kind of fish: it is a flat fish, and it is not the same on each side; one side is very dark, and one side is pale. Both its eyes are on the dark side, and it has no eyes on the side that is pale. It lies down on the pale side, so that the dark one is the one most seen. The Sole is a sea fish; it does not live in a lake or pond; it is

very fond of mud; it lies in the mud, and it can not swim very well. Many flat fish live in the sea, and, as they are all fond of mud, men take them all much in the same way. They get a net, and take it out in a boat, and when they come to a mud bank that is full of fish, they drop the net. This net has bits of lead tied to it, to make it sink in the mud. The men in the boat drag the net all over the mud bank, and the fish, when they feel the net near, flap up and down, and so fall into it. The men then pull it up, and take the fish out.

Most flat fish are good to eat, so that many of them are sold. Like all fish, the Sole lays eggs, but it does not take care of them as a bird does, nor do they look at all like the eggs of a bird; we call the eggs of a fish the roe.

THE GOAT.

I HAVE just seen a Goat and her Kids: she has two Kids; they are full of fun, and jump up and down all day long. They will leap over the back of the old Goat as she lies down, and butt at her. If they see a low heap in the turf, they will make a very high leap over it, as if it were a tall gate, and then run up and down as fast as they can, and kick very hard. They are not at all wild, and will come up to you if you call them. The Kid is as fond of play as the lamb. If you will call up that dark one, we will look at its hair, and you will see that it is not at all like the wool on the back of the

lamb. The Goat will bear both heat and cold, but his hair gets very fine and long in a warm land, and is as soft as silk: it is cut off the Goat and spun, and it is worn by very rich men in Asia: and it is dyed of many hues, so as to look very gay. One kind of Goat has very long ears, that hang down on each side of his face. The feet of a Goat are very sure, so that it can get up a high rock, and it will leap from peak to peak, till it gets so high up on the hill that it is very hard to get at it. The milk of the Goat is used in the same way that cow's milk is, and the skin is used in many ways:—your boot is made of the skin of a kid, you know. Kids are very good to eat, also, and the meat from them is like that of a lamb or fawn, but with us they are not much used for food, nor are we very fond of the milk of the Goat; but, when cows are not to be had, it is the next best kind of milk that can be got.